

Earth Day Greens Fort Hamilton

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The planting of a purple-leaved plum tree on April 20 could only mean Army Earth Day 2006. Someday here in the grassy area between Garrison headquarters the Army National Guard headquarters at Fort Hamilton will stand an approximately thirty-foot tree that will turn reddish-purple in autumn. The purple-leaved plum leaves are deep purple and prefer a lot of sunlight, which is exactly what this area receives most of the day. The tree is a variety of cherry tree and is cold-hardy.

Fort Hamilton's Department of Public Works and the Meridian Management Corporation personnel teamed up to plant the tree upon orders from Garrison Commander Col. Tracey E. Nicholson. Personnel came out to see the tree dedicated and a great deal of help came in the form of little hands that helped shovel soil onto the newly planted tree. Children from the Child Development Center went to the site in the morning and were encouraged by their teachers to assist in the planting. Everyone got a turn behind the shovel and some thought that it was fun.

The United States Army is committed to sound environmental stewardship. A short walk around Fort Hamilton and the number of trees on post can make one forget that this is Brooklyn. The Fort Hamilton DPW mission includes environmental management plans, procedures and guidance on protecting human health and the environment and conserving our cultural and natural resources.

"Earth Day reminds the people of the world of the need for continuing care, which is vital to Earth's safety," Margaret Mead, anthropologist and ecologist.



Col. Tracey E. Nicholson assists kids from the Child Development Center plant a purple-leaved plum tree on Army Earth Day 2006.